

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

Howard County

March 2015 Edition

## Welcome!

With occasional snow storms still possible, residents are reminded our Code requires adjacent property owners to remove all snow from sidewalks within 48 hours of a storm. Consider helping our seniors or those unable to clear their pathway. This will provide safe passage for our students walking to school and pedestrians.

In this edition, you will find great events, programs and ways to get and stay involved. For more up-to-the-minute information, "[Like me](#)" on Facebook or "[Follow me](#)" on Twitter

([@CalvinBallTeam](#)). You can also register for County updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Have questions, comments, concerns or ideas on how we can be doing better to serve Howard County? I invite you to call my office at 410-313-2001 or email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

If you would like to register and receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

## Inside this issue:

Taste of Long Reach	1
5 <sup>th</sup> annual Chili Cook-off	1
Help to Others Program	1
Money Matters Fair	2
Baby Expo	2
Women of Tomorrow Awards	3
Collision Avoidance Training	3
V4C Youth Summit	3
WalkHoward	4
Soup'r Sundae	5
South American CultureFest	5

## Taste of Long Reach!



Please join us for a fun evening of great food and beverages from our area restaurants and caterers during the Taste of Long Reach. This event will be held on **Friday, March 6, 2015 7-11pm** at **The Gathering Place, 6120 Day Long Lane** in Columbia. It's a great evening to mingle with the staff members, other parents and friends in the community. All are welcome but you must be 21 to attend!

Tickets are \$50 and include food tastings, door prize ticket, unlimited non-alcoholic beverage & three drink tickets. Cash Bar for additional beverages. Call **410-313-7117** for details or go [online](#) to purchase tickets.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off!

Join us on **Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 12:30-2:30pm** for Bridges to Housing Stability's 5th Annual "Hotter than Thou" Chili Cook-off where more than 17 congregations will compete. There is no admission charge and this event will be held at the **Church of the Resurrection, 3175 Paulskirk Drive in Ellicott City, MD**. Each congregation will provide samples of their unique recipe and guests will vote on favorites by placing cash/checks in tip jars.

Bridges to Housing Stability prevents and reduces homelessness in Howard County, offering two programs: Housing Stability Program, an ongoing service-based program focused on "Housing First" model for placement of homeless and at-risk households and Bridges Alliance, a program of affordable housing with a circle of support aimed at preventing homelessness. Proceeds directly benefit all of Bridges' clients. Unable to attend, but want to make a difference? Please consider [donating today](#).



## H<sub>2</sub>O Help to Others!

A new program connecting Howard County residents who need assistance in paying their water and sewer bills with residents who want to help has now been launched. Residential water and sewer customers will now be able to make donations to the fund starting with the March bill. There will be a check box to top in to participate by rounding up their payments to the next highest dollar. Residents will also be given options to make on-going, or one-time donations to the program.

In October 2014, the Council passed legislation authorizing the creation of this program. Our Department of Public Works has agreed to set aside at least \$50,000 and funding will be used to assist customers with delinquent accounts who are facing disconnection of service. The County has selected a non-profit, Family and Children Services, to administer the program and verify the need of those seeking assistance. Those facing disconnection of water services should contact the County's Department of Finance Water and Sewer Division at **410-313-2058**.

## Daylight Savings Has Arrived!



The time has arrived where we must set our clocks forward. Day light savings officially begins **Sunday, March 8, 2015**. The time change officially takes place at 2am but you may set your clocks forward in preparation.

## Interlacing From Our Inspirations!

The Meeting House Gallery in Oakland Mills is now featuring the “Interlacing From Our Inspirations” exhibit through **Saturday, March 7, 2015**. It features work by members of The International Center for Artistic Development and was produced in collaboration with the Oakland Mills Community Association. Artists featured are Laura Benson, Camillia A. Blackwell, Jennie S. Campbell, Emily Ceballos, Dorothy Friedman, Luis Peralta, Reggie Smith, Leah Taylor and Mary Jo Tydlacka. It will include oil, watercolor etching and aquatint, oil pastel, ebony wood carving, jewelry, ceramic sculpture, collage, acrylic, pen, ink and wash drawing, graphite drawing, transfer print pastel drawing and collage, photography, and mixed media acrylic.

The [Meeting House Gallery](#) is located in **The Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, 5885 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia and is open 8am-9pm. The gallery is free and open to all. For more information, call **410-730-4090**.

### Federal Energy Assistance

U.S. Senators Mikulski & Cardin announced Maryland will receive an additional \$6.2M in federal energy assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help families with modest incomes stay warm this winter. For details, visit [www.liheap.org/ssates/md](http://www.liheap.org/ssates/md)

## Leadership U – Accepting Applications for Class of 2015!



Calling all students - Leadership U is open to high school sophomores (or equivalents who are home-schooled) who live in Howard County. Students may attend public or private school, or be home-schooled. Students must have a desire to learn about their community and a willingness to volunteer. LU is a great way to meet new people from different schools who share similar interests in knowing more about their community, and who want to make a positive impact.

Application deadline is **March 12, 2015**. For more details, go [online](#).

## Support the Silas Craft Collegians Program!



The Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invite you to our annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously on **Monday, March 9th from 5-8pm** at the Hunan Manor Restaurant in Columbia. Tickets are \$45/person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to [purchase tickets](#), call the HCC development office at **443-518-1970**.

## Money Matters Fair!

MakingChange will host the Money Matters Fair on **Saturday, March 14, 2015, from 10am-1pm** at Long Reach High School. Free activities for the entire family will focus on such issues as living within your means, college funding options, preparing for retirement and caring for aging parents. Activities for children and their parents will include an interactive financial simulation designed to show how career, education and spending choices impact success. More information is available [online](#).

## Baby Expo: Prenatal through Preschool

Come join us for Columbia's [Prenatal through Preschool Baby Expo](#). There will be informational speakers, product vendors, child safety information, health information and much more. Raffle prizes and giveaway bags will add to the day. The event will be held **Saturday, March 7, 2015 10am-2pm** at Owen Brown Community Center.

For more information, please contact Meghan Pierce at [events@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:events@owenbrownvillage.org) or **410-381-0202** or Brigitta Warren at [events@oaklandmills.org](mailto:events@oaklandmills.org) or **410-730-4610**.



## Settlement Downpayment Loan Program!

Looking to buy a home or relocate in Howard County? Howard County Housing has invested \$400,000 to the Department's Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP) that will offer homebuyers a deferred second mortgage loan, to be used by those preapproved for settlement costs and downpayments. Buyers must agree to occupy the home as their primary residence. Interest rates are set at 2 percent below the first mortgage interest rate and repayment of the loans is deferred until resale, refinance or default.

Additional incentives such as loan forgiveness are available under the Workforce Initiative Loan product for homeowners who work in Howard County. Funds will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Homebuyers interested in applying for the program should contact a participating first mortgage lender to begin the application process. A list of approved lenders can be found on Housing's SDLP [website](#), call **410-313-6318** or email [lphillips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lphillips@howardcountymd.gov).

## 2015 Women of Tomorrow Awards!

The MD Commission for Women, MD State Department of Education & Friends of the MD Commission for Women are seeking recommendations of outstanding young women from Maryland, grades 7-12 for their 2015 Women of Tomorrow Awards. The purpose is to acknowledge extraordinary young women who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and academic excellence.

All nominations must be received no later than **Friday, March 13, 2015** and are available online. Electronic submissions may be emailed to [Judith.vaughan-prather@maryland.gov](mailto:Judith.vaughan-prather@maryland.gov). For more details, call 301-610-4523.

## HoCo Seeks Nominations for Excellence in Programs for Children!



Howard County is seeking nominees of people, programs and businesses that make a positive impact on the lives of our children for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual “Celebrating Successes for Children” awards program. While an individual nominee does not have to be a resident of Howard County, he or she must serve Howard County children; however, program or business nominees must be located in Howard County. Nominations are due by **Friday, March 13, 2015**. Nomination forms are available [online](#) or by calling 410-313-1940.

## Columbia Village Board Elections- Candidate Packets Now Available!

Want to get more involved in your community and make a difference? The Villages of Columbia are now accepting applications for their annual election process. See below for details on how to file in your village:

### Village of Long Reach

Nominations Open **March 1-21**. 2 Positions & the CA representatives will be filled at the election to be held **Saturday, April, 26, 2015**. Deadline to file is **Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 12pm**. Elections will be held **Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:30am-12pm**. For more details, click [here](#). For the nomination packet, click [here](#).

### Village of Oakland Mills

Candidate packets are currently available for pick-up. On **Friday, March 6** at 4pm, nomination petitions and candidate's statements are due. \*Residents are eligible to vote if they have resided in OM since this date. **Friday, April 25**: deadline for receiving mail-in ballots. OM Election Day is **Saturday, April 25, 2015**. For more details, click [here](#).

## Collision Avoidance Training!

The HC Police Department will be conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) classes March-December. This is an advanced defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. This one day program (8.5 hours) is designed to provide young drivers with the knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics and will provide practical exercises that demonstrate how the vehicle responds in a given situation and how to regain control of the vehicle. Driving skills addressed include: evasive maneuvers, threshold/emergency braking, forward serpentine, cornering, backing, reverse serpentine and skid and off-road recovery.

Students must operate their own vehicle and successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver to receive a certificate of completion. Cost is \$95. Sessions are: **March 14, April 25, May 16, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 12**. **August 22-23/September 19-20/October 17-18/November 14-15/December 5-6**. For more details, contact Ms. Jessica Beram at 410-313-3758 or email [JBeram@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:JBeram@howardcountymd.gov).

## Voices 4 Change Youth Summit!

On **Friday, March 13, 2015** the annual Voices for Change (V4C) Youth Summit will be held at Bridgeway Community Church. Students from 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> will be in attendance. V4C students have identified the following topics to be discussed at the summit: Dealing with Stress, Eyes of Society, Saving Cents, and Meaningful Involvement. The schedule will begin at 8:30am and run through 1:15pm. Go [online](#) for more details, call 410-313-4609 or email [mmekelburg@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mmekelburg@howardcountymd.gov).



## TotallyHoCo – Howard County's new online calendar!



Have you ever wanted a centralized place to see many of the events happening locally? Maybe you are looking for a way to let more local people know about the event you're hosting. There's a new online calendar in Howard County that can help you find, share and post events! It's TotallyHoCo.com, and it's free to use. Check out the categories of events such as Family Friendly, Music, Game Nights, Arts & Culture, Girls Night Out and more!

## Pedestrian Master Plan Wants your Feedback!



The Howard County Office of Transportation invites the public to join them at community meetings to gather input regarding improvements to the Pedestrian Master Plan, also known as WalkHoward. The purpose of WalkHoward is to guide the development of a plan to make Howard County a more walkable and sustainable community. The plan continues efforts to build a system of ADA accessible sidewalks, pathways, bus stops and roadway crossings to make walking easy and safe.

Two meetings are scheduled: **Monday, March 16 7-8:30pm** at Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane in Wilde Lake Village Center; and **Saturday, March 28 1:30-3pm** at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel. Those unable to attend may also submit their input [online](#). For more information, call **410-313-3130**.

## 2015 Sister Cities Exchange Program – Deadline Extended !

Teens have until Monday, March 16, 2015 to sign up for Columbia Association's (CA) annual summer Sister Cities High School Exchange Program. Teens spend approximately two weeks of cultural and linguistic immersion during the summer in one of Columbia's sister cities: Cergy-Pontoise in France or Tres Cantos in Spain. Participants will depart for France June 27 and for Spain on June 28 and the program will run through the end of July. The cost is \$700/Columbia residents; \$850/non-Columbia residents, excluding airline tickets. There are excellent scholarships available for Columbia residents only who qualify. For an application go [online](#) or contact **Laura Smit** at **410-715-3162** or [International@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:International@columbiaassociation.org)

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup'r Sundae!

The Rotary Clubs of Howard County are hosting the sixth annual Soup'r Sundae, a family event featuring soups prepared by area restaurants, as a fundraiser for Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center on **Sunday, March 22**, from **noon-2pm**, at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

Admission is \$20 per adult and \$5 per child under 12 and includes unlimited soup and bread and ice cream, which is being provided by Nestle Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream. There will be music and entertainment for children. Tickets are available [online](#) or by contacting [cathyvsmith@verizon.net](mailto:cathyvsmith@verizon.net). Tickets will also be available at the door for cash and checks made out to Grassroots.



## Rebuilding Together Howard County!

HCAR will be sponsoring a home this year and we're asking YOU to join us – skilled and non-skilled labor activities will be needed! Come out **Saturday, April 25 9am-5pm** RAIN OR SHINE. There will be two shifts and volunteers should be prepared to donate at least 4 hours of your time. The cost is \$35/person & your time. All proceeds go to "Rebuilding Together Howard County". You may sign-up [online](#) and the deadline to register is **Tuesday, March 31, 2015**.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual 2015 American Success Awards Seeks Nominees!

FIRN is seeking to recognize foreign-born individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the economy of Howard County and the community! Nominations are being accepted for those who embody the spirit of "American Success". The criteria is that recipients must: be foreign-born individuals who live or work in Howard County; be either the owner of a successful Howard County business or have achieved a high level of success in his/her chosen profession; and made a significant contribution to either the ethnic or general community through his/her volunteer services. For more details go [online](#) or email Jill Bussey at [jillmbussey@gmail.com](mailto:jillmbussey@gmail.com). The deadline is **Tuesday, March 31, 2015**.

## HCPSS Upcoming Events!

Senior Week: Staying Safe in Ocean City. **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 7-9pm** at River Hill High School Media Center.

Officers from the Ocean City Police Department and Beach Patrol will offer advice for parents and students for a safe week for teens at the beach and a worry-free week for parents. Parents and students planning to go to the shore are encouraged to attend this presentation, sponsored by HC DrugFree.

HCPSS Fine Arts Advisory Council Meeting. **Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm** at the Department of Education in Ellicott City

Get involved in supporting quality arts curricula and other student learning experiences as a member of the HCPSS Fine Arts Advisory Council. Anyone passionate about theatre, dance, music or the visual arts is invited to participate. No experience or background in the arts is necessary.

Special Education Community Advisory Committee (SECAC) Meeting. **Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm** at the HC Library Central Branch.

The public is invited to attend meetings of the Howard County Special Education Community Advisory Committee, which provides meaningful input from families, community partners and others on topics relative to the education of students who receive special education services.

Transition Symposium. **Saturday, March 21, 2015 8am-5pm** at Cedar Lane School in Fulton.

For families of students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Breakout workshops include: resource coordinators in MD; How to support your child in their journey; Transitioning youth; Special needs trusts; SSDI & SSI; Person centered planning; employment.



## Spotlight on Village Events!



### Oakland Mills 2015 Upcoming Events:

#### Lively Arts for Little Ones

Go on a fantastic journey by plane, car, truck, bus, boat, bicycle, rocket ship, foot, horse, and even time machine! Come and experience a creative musical exploration of transportation and movement with [Tracey Eldridge](#). This event will be held **Friday, March 13 at 10am** in The Other Barn.

#### 50+ Fun and Fulfilling Services Coffee and Conversation

Join fellow 50+ residents to plan next year's series on **Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 9:30am** in The Other Barn. To register call **410-730-4610** or email [events@oaklandmills.org](mailto:events@oaklandmills.org). Please call **410-730-4610** or email [events@oaklandmills.org](mailto:events@oaklandmills.org) for more information.

### Long Reach 2015 Upcoming Events:

#### Long Reach Flea Market

Held on **Saturday, April 25, 2015 8am-12pm**, this is a fantastic opportunity to sell or purchase treasures. Those looking to set-up shop, the cost is \$20/space. Stop by the Stonehouse or call **410-730-8113** for more info or download the application <http://longreach.org/drupal/FleaMarket%20Contract.pdf>.

#### Columbia Cleans Day (Jackson Point & south end of Tamar Drive in Jeffers Hill)

Residents of all ages – including groups, and those wishing to earn community service hours are encouraged to participate. Meet in Jeffers Hill neighborhood at end of Tamar on **Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm**.

## Aging in Place Home Repair Funding!

Since 2005, Columbia Association and the Howard County Office on Aging have partnered to help older adults age in place, providing financial assistance to qualified CA homeowners who cannot otherwise pay for accessibility or repair expenses for their homes. For more information, please see the full news release on CA's website, <http://bit.ly/1iiiVAp>

## Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2014-2015!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details, call **410-313-1675**.

#### SHARPSHOOTING

Alpha Ridge Landfill and Park	<b>March 9</b>
Belmont Park	<b>March 5</b>
Rockburn Branch Park	<b>March 5</b>
Timbers at Troy Golf Course	<b>March 5</b>

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual GreenFest – Vendors Sought!



Howard County will host its 8<sup>th</sup> annual GreenFest on **Saturday, April 18, 2015 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. This year's theme is "Living with Wildlife" and highlight environmentally conscious products, services, activities and opportunities for community involvement. Vendors and exhibitors with information on green products, green building, native plant sales, wildlife exploration, environmentally-friendly lawn care, energy efficiency, alternative energy, water conservation and reuse and tips for greening your everyday activities are encouraged to apply.

For more information, go [online](#), call **410-313-6433** or email [awilcom@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:awilcom@howardcountymd.gov).

## 2015 Community Sports Hall of Fame – Nominees Sought!

The Community Sports Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. Coaches, managers, league officials, commissioners or event behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated! In addition, nominees must be either Howard County residents or made their community sports contributions primarily in Howard County. Forms are available [online](#) or call **410-313-4711**. **Deadline is April 15, 2015.**



## South American CultureFest!

Columbia Association is seeking South American musicians, bands, exhibitors, performers and food vendors for the upcoming "[South American Culture Fest](#)" hosted **Sunday, April 25, 2015 from 1:30-4:30pm** at Howard County's **Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road** in Ellicott City. The Culture Fest is a great place for individuals, bands, organizations and dance groups to participate in an afternoon of music as well as dance performances and educational displays. Interested parties are asked to contact **Laura Smit** at **410-715-3162** or email [International@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:International@ColumbiaAssociation.org).

### Winter Tip: Protect Your Pipes!

Our Bureau of Utilities would like to remind residents to take proactive steps to protect your pipes and plumbing fixtures from cold weather damage.

Helpful tips:

- Any exposed pipes should be wrapped or insulated
- Leave the hot and cold water dripping to reduce probability of pipes freezing
- Seal any air leaks that may let any icy blast reach pipes
- Turn off and drain outside spigots
- If house has crawlspace, close all air vents located in the foundation
- If going on extended vacation, keep enough heat on at home to prevent pipes from freezing
- Always report loss of water to **410-313-4900**



## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual WomenFest – Vendors Needed!

Do you offer products and/or services that promote health, wellness, fashion, and beauty and are designed to inspire women to live a more balanced, healthy and fulfilled life? If so, apply for a spot at this year's Department of Citizen Services' WomenFest, a signature wellness event for women on **Saturday, April 25, 2015 10am-3pm** at the Gary Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville. Applications, sponsorship opportunities and full event details are available [online](#) or call 410-313-5957.

## Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)!

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) are grants up to \$2,000 to assist adults with development disabilities and families with a child with developmental disabilities with purchasing services and/or items to address needs. MD residents who have a developmental disability, their family or authorized representative may apply. Requests can be submitted **January 1-31 and July 1-31** of each year.

For more details or to receive a copy of the application, go [online](#) or contact the LISS agency serving Howard County: Penn Mar Human Services, 410-357-0891; 1-877-282-8202; TTY: 711 or email [LISS@penn-mar.org](mailto:LISS@penn-mar.org).

## Excite Columbia!

Columbia Association's (CA) citizens academy, Excite Columbia, will be returning soon for its spring 2015 session. The six-week program will be held on Tuesdays beginning **March 24** and concluding **April 28**. Classes are held **6:30-8:30pm** at CA Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle. Excite Columbia is open to anyone 18 or older and interested in learning more about CA. Registration is required as seating is limited. To register, go [online](#).

## Free Financial Coaching!

MyBudgetCoach was launched by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families & individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at [petakl@makingchangecenter.org](mailto:petakl@makingchangecenter.org) if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit [www.makingchangecenter.org](http://www.makingchangecenter.org).

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## Give the Gift of Independence!

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information.

## Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

HS students (Ages 13-19) and MS students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email [CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org) to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month **6:30-8pm** at the Youth & Teen Center in The Barn, **5853 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia.

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

**4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

**Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment program at Columbia Art Center. Meets **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**. Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

**Columbia Teen Center** 410-992-3726

[Howard County Library](#)

**Voices For Change:** Email Meg Mekelburg for more info [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

## Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook, Stevens Forest and Swansfield. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com) or call **410-730-6030**.

## Scholarships For Students!

As an educator, I know the value and importance of education. I also know that many families often struggle with financing the dream. Below is a sample of scholarships available. I encourage your students to apply early.

### **Columbia (MD) Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

**Deadline:** March 7, 2015; **Award:** \$500-\$1000

**Description:** For African American HS seniors in Howard County and attending a HC public school. Must plan to enter college in 2015; have a GPA of at least 2.5, have performed school/community service as well as demonstrated leadership abilities specific to the requirements of the scholarship award.

**Contact:** Call **410-730-9553** or email [scholarship@colmddst.org](mailto:scholarship@colmddst.org)

### **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

**Deadline:** March 16, 2015; **Award:** \$1,000-\$2,000

**Description:** Reserved for African American applicants planning to attend two or four year colleges or universities. Must be a senior or enrolled in a Howard County School



### **GEBA Scholarship Foundation**

**Deadline:** March 31, 2015; **Award:** \$2,600 up to \$100,000

**Description:** GEBA is a nonprofit association started in 1957 by NSA employees and now offers ways to give back. You must be a GEBA or GEMBA member, active since December 31, 2011 in order to sponsor yourself or an eligible family member defined as your spouse, your children, stepchildren, grandchildren or step-grandchildren.

**Contact:** Call **301-688-7912** or **1-800-826-1126**

### **Teen Safety Scholarship PSA Contest**

**Deadline:** April 1, 2015; **Award:** First Prize: \$2,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$1000, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$500

**Description:** Attorney Michael Abelson, The Abelson Law Firm in DC, feels strongly about the terrible consequences cyber bullying has had on the lives of our young students. HE is offering this scholarship to heighten awareness. Get creative and produce a 60-second or shorter video to urge students to put an end to cyber bullying. Open to HS seniors in DC, Maryland and Virginia who will be pursuing a college degree.

### **Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships**

**Deadline:** Complete and file Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1<sup>st</sup>; **Award:** \$400-\$9,700 (Senate), \$200 minimum (Delegate)

**Description:** If your senator makes his/her own awards, you must call or write to your legislator for further instructions. Call Board of Supervisors of Howard County at 410-313-5820 if you are unsure of how to contact your state senator or state delegate.

### **"Aspiring Animation Professional" Scholarship Program**

**Deadline:** June 1, 2015; Winners announced July 2015, scholarships paid August 2015

**Description:** Limited to HS seniors in the US pursuing an animation related degree program at an accredited post-secondary school or college.

### **"Aspiring Fashion Professional" Scholarship Program**

**Deadline:** June 1, 2015; Winners announced July 2015 and scholarships paid August 2015; **Award:** \$1,000 for one year, non-renewable

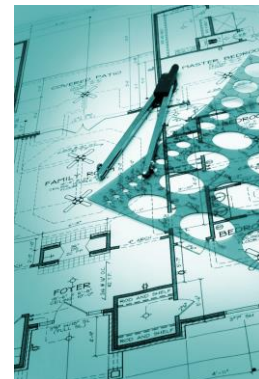
**Description:** For HS seniors in the US who intend to pursue a fashion related field at an accredited post-secondary school or college. Have a demonstrable record of academic success and a passion and drive for a fashion related career. Selection based on academic performance combined with student's application essay.

## MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!

HC Housing is accepting applications for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications are available at Housing's office in the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and not eligible.

For more information, contact **Deborah Gillen** at 410-313-3508 or [DGillen@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:DGillen@howardcountymd.gov).



## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services. They provide programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial **9-1-1**
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call **410-313-2200**
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call **410-290-3784**
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call **410-313-7867** or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call **410-313-7867** or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call **410-313-3712** or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call **410-313-4795** and leave a message to make an appointment.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available [online](#).
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call **410-313-2780**, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call **410-313-2208** for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call **410-313-7807**.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call **410-313-2255**
- **Interested in HCPD Recruitment?** Call **410-313-4273**.

## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!



The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.



## "Guaranteed Ride Home"!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation. To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.

## Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call **1-800-272-3900** or go [online](#).

## Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call **410-313-7678** or go [online](#).

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-2005**.

## I Want to Hear From You!

As your Councilmember, it's my mission to engage with you and your community. Your testimony is always welcome as the Council considers legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to [Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. You can view our calendar [here](#).

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council  
[District 2](#)  
[Email Me](#)  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

*"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.